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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
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Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 2. Political affairs

1. At its 25th meeting, on 5 June 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Many delegations welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to streamline the Department of Political Affairs. Some delegations welcomed the overall substantial decrease in the resources proposed. Some delegations expressed concern as to whether sufficient resources had been proposed for activities relating to the Security Council.

3. Several delegations considered that resources allocated to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples were excessive. Several other delegations expressed support for the level of resources proposed.

4. Some delegations suggested that the Department of Political Affairs review the narratives relating to subprogrammes 1, Special political questions, and 2, Regional, political and security cooperation, of programme 4, Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 1/ with a view to further streamlining and coordinating those activities and avoiding apparent overlap.

5. Some delegations supported the programme narrative of subprogramme 3, Trusteeship and decolonization, of programme 4, whose legislative mandate is based on resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly on the item. Other delegations regarded the programme as a low priority.

6. Many delegations emphasized that the activities proposed to be carried out under subprogramme 4, Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, with respect to provision of electoral assistance should in all cases be in the form of responses to requests made by Governments. Several delegations expressed their strong support for the role of the Electoral Assistance Division.

7. With respect to programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan many delegations stressed that additional resources should have been proposed for the regional centres in order to strengthen them. They regretted that the actual state of the centres did not allow them to undertake their activities in a satisfactory manner. Other delegations emphasized that the proposed increase for the programme of activities of the Conference on Disarmament was not adequate to carry out the mandated activities.

8. Many delegations welcomed the fact that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People would remain until a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine had been achieved, expressed concern at the proposed decrease in resources for programme 5, and urged the Secretary-General to review the narrative of the programme with a view to reinstating the two posts proposed for suppression. Many other delegations expressed their support for the Secretary-General's proposed reduction on the understanding that it would not affect the quality of delivery of mandated activities.

9. One delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal that activities related to the Office of the Coordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL) should continue to be carried out and emphasized that this should be done by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) rather than by the resident coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

10. Several delegations did not agree to the level of resources proposed for consultants and travel.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended deletion of the phrase "the front-line States" in paragraph 2.48.1 (a) (iii) and the phrase "but not in Africa" in paragraph 2.104.3 (b).

12. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 2, Political affairs, as amended, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vols. I and II.
